

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1, 10 and 15 have been amended. All pending and withdrawn claims are listed below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of playing a poker based wagering game comprising:
accepting an initial player wager;
said player receiving five or more random cards from one or more decks of cards;
said player selecting to hold one or more of the five or more random cards;
if said one or more hold cards is common to a royal flush, providing the player an opportunity to place a second wager;
if said player elects to place the second wager, replacing one or more of the non-hold cards with cards needed for partial completion of the royal flush such that the player has a higher probability, but less than 100 percent, of successfully drawing the royal flush after placing the second wager than before placing the second wager;
randomly replacing, from remaining cards in the one or more decks of cards, each of the player's cards not common to the royal flush; and
awarding said player a payout if a player's final poker hand is the royal flush.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein if the player places the wager, the non-hold cards are replaced in such a number that the player holds a poker hand having four of the five cards necessary to complete the royal flush.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein if the player places the wager and the player's final hand is not a royal flush, the player continues to be eligible for an award based on the poker ranking of the player's final hand.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the player receives an award if the poker

ranking of the player's final hand is a pair of jacks or better.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein preestablished odds are related to the number of player selected hold cards common to the royal flush.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the player initially receives five random cards.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein preestablished odds range from 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the player initially receives seven cards.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the method is facilitated by an electronic gaming machine.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of playing a poker based wagering game comprising:

accepting an initial player wager;

said player receiving five random cards from one or more decks of cards;

said player selecting to hold one or more of the five random cards;

if said one or more hold cards is common to a royal flush, providing the player an opportunity to place a second wager;

if said player elects to place the second wager, replacing one, two or three non-hold cards to form a poker hand having four of the five cards necessary to complete the royal flush thereby increasing a probability of the player obtaining a royal flush, wherein the probability is less than 100 percent;

randomly replacing, from remaining cards in the one or more decks of cards, the player's one card not common to the royal flush; and

awarding said player a payout if the player completes the royal flush.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the player is awarded a payout if the player's final hand is of a minimum preestablished poker ranking less than the royal flush.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the minimum preestablished poker ranking is a pair of jacks or better.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein preestablished odds are in the range of 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the method is facilitated by an electronic gaming machine.

15. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a processor in communication with a random number generator and display;

one or more player interfaces;

said random number for generating a display of five or more random cards from one or more decks of cards;

said one or more player interfaces for allowing a player to place an initial wager and hold one or more of the five or more displayed random cards such that if said hold one or more cards is common to a royal flush, said processor for providing the player an opportunity to place a second wager;

if said player elects to place the second wager, said processor further for replacing one or more of the non-hold cards with cards needed for partial completion of the royal flush such that the player has a higher probability, but less than 100 percent, of successfully drawing the royal flush after placing the second wager than before placing the second wager;

said random number generator further for causing replacement of each of the player's cards not common to the royal flush wherein said cards are replaced with cards remaining in the one or more decks of cards; and

said processor further for awarding said player a payout if a player's final poker

hand is the royal flush.

16. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein said processor further for awarding a payout if the player's final hand is of a minimum preestablished poker ranking less than the royal flush.

17. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 16 wherein the minimum preestablished poker ranking is a pair of jacks or better.

18. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein preestablished odds are in the range of 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.